

## Hawaii's 2007 Small Business Awards Winners



**2007 SBA Small Business Award Winners for the State of Hawaii**

Front row: Glenn Nohara, Malcolm Koga, Kari Leong, Cindy Makimoto, Dr. Tin Myaing Thein, Barbra Pleadwell, Teruko Kuniyuki  
Back row: Michael Inouye, Evan Inouye, Alvin Makimoto, Brian Iwata, Marseu Simpson, Alii Chang, Barbara Hastings, Nobuo Kuniyuki

### **Small Business Person of the Year**

Malcolm Koga and Glenn Nohara – Koga Engineering and Construction (State of Hawaii)  
Stephanie Biven – Biven's Electric Inc., dba West Coast Construction (City & County of Honolulu)  
Russell Ruderman – Island Naturals Market, Inc. & Island Naturals Pahoa (County of Hawaii)  
James Kartes – Paradise Television Network (County of Maui)  
Sharron Weber – Kauai Enterprises, Inc., dba Tire Warehouse (County of Kauai)

### **SBA Family-Owned Business of the Year**

Alvin Makimoto – Uptown Service (State of Hawaii)  
Alan Young – Young's fish Market (City & County of Honolulu)  
Jeremy Kozuki – Home Maid Bakery (County of Maui)

### **SBA Young Entrepreneur of the Year**

Anthony Yamada, David Inouye & Michael Inouye – Worldwide Business Network, dba Ideal Collectables (State of Hawaii)  
Brian Zada – BRZ Inc., dba Pretzelmaker (City & County of Honolulu)  
Zendo Kern – Superior Development Group, LLC (County of Hawaii)  
Thomas Middleton – Pacific Lawn and Landscape (County of Kauai)

### **Small Business Exporter of the Year**

Nobuo and Teruko Kuniyuki – Goodtimes Limited (State of Hawaii)

### **Financial Services Champion of the Year**

Brian Iwata – Taketa, Iwata, Hara & Associates (State of Hawaii)  
Annette Pauole-Ahukuelo – Kuha'o Business Center (County of Maui)

### **Home-Based Business Champion of the Year**

Lani Weigert, Alii Chang & Marseu Simpson – The Lavender Farm, Inc., dba Ali'i Kula Lavender Farm (State of Hawaii)  
Barry Michael Wong – Building Specs Hawaii, LLC (City & County of Honolulu)  
Susan Kim – Susan Kim Coaching, LLC (County of Maui)

### **Small Business Journalist of the Year**

Evan and Kari Leong – Greater Good, Inc. (State of Hawaii & Region IX)  
Linda Dela Cruz - MidWeek (City & County of Honolulu)  
Debra Lordan – Maui Weekly (County of Maui)

### **Minority Small Business Champion of the Year**

Dr. Tin Myaing Thein – Pacific Gateway Center (State of Hawaii)

### **Women in Business Champion of the Year**

Barbara Hastings & Barbara Pleadwell (State of Hawaii & Region IX)  
Piia Aarma – Pineapple Tweed (City & County of Honolulu)  
Muriel Boot – Tropical Tees and Kona Gift Gallery, Eelskin Outlet (County of Hawaii)

## **2007 SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR**

### ***State of Hawai'i***

#### **Malcolm Koga and Glenn Nohara**

**Koga Engineering and Construction**



*Malcolm Koga*



*Glenn Nohara*

For more than 30 years, Koga Engineering and Construction has successfully weathered the changing economic conditions in the State and consistently ranks in the top 25 general contractors in Hawai'i. Founder and Chairman Malcolm Koga and President/COO Glenn Nohara use a TQM program based on the theories of Dr. E.W. Demings to define the jobs at which they excel, to motivate their employees and lead by example. Despite the adversity presented, this company thrives through a strong work ethic and a code of "Personal responsibility, Safety, Integrity, Quality, Commitment and Ohana."

*Nominated by Earl Kaneshiro, Central Pacific Bank*

### ***City and County of Honolulu***

#### **Stephanie Biven**

**West Coast Construction**



*Stephanie Biven*

Started in 1997, Biven's Electric, dba West Coast Construction, has the experience in the electrical industry and marketing savvy to get their firm on the fast track to success. In the last eight years, the company has delivered quality work, to be recognized as a leader in their industry and has grown from two to forty full-time employees. Biven treats staff as an extension of family and invests in their team through training, development, and other employee benefits. West Coast Construction is a sought-after 8(a) minority-owned firm on their way to success!

*Nominated by Lori Honda, Bank of Hawai'i*

### ***County of Maui***

#### **Jim Kartes**

**Paradise Television Network  
Maui X-Stream**



*Jim Kartes*

After a long, successful career in television broadcast, Jim Kartes retired to Maui. Instead, he discovered new business opportunities and ideas he couldn't resist. Kartes purchased Paradise Television Network 18 years ago and put his broadcast knowledge to work, adding new programming, expanding the production facilities, using digital formats and building a multi-million dollar business. In 2003, he established Maui X-Stream, Inc., to develop and patent an exciting new video streaming technology that is now on the market.

*Nominated by Bill Russell, American Savings Bank*

## ***County of Hawai'i***

### **Russell Ruderman**

**Island Naturals Market & Island Naturals Pahoa**



*Russell Ruderman*

The two Island Naturals groceries are modern, supermarket style stores offering healthy food alternatives in a friendly customer-focused manner. In the early start-up years in Hilo, Russell Ruderman tapped into his business skills and industry experience to make this concept profitable by expanding product lines, stock, and new merchandising. The purchase of the Pahoa store location doubled operations, and growth continues. With customer service as a top priority, Ruderman invests in his staff with quality training and benefits that create loyal and motivated employees.

*Nominated by Greg Ayau & Cheryl Octavio, Bank of Hawai'i*

## ***County of Kaua'i***

### **Sharron Weber**

**Tire Warehouse**



*Sharron Weber*

Sharron Weber, President of Tire Warehouse, has demonstrated natural marketing skills, business savvy, and determination in building her company over the last 33 years. Weber delivers high-quality service that is paramount to customer expectations and satisfaction. Their continued success is based largely on Sharron's enthusiastic efforts to guarantee customer loyalty by offering free shuttle service, free tire repair, auto pick-up and delivery and road service for customers.

*Nominated by Paul Endo, First Hawaiian Bank*

## **2007 SBA FAMILY-OWNED SMALL BUSINESS**

## ***State of Hawai'i***

### **Alvin & Cindy Makimoto**

**Uptown Food Mart & Car Wash**



*Cindy & Alvin Makimoto*

Uptown Food Mart & Car Wash has kept up with the many changes in Wailuku and the gas and auto industry for over 50 years. When Alvin Makimoto took over the lead from his father in 1989, he discovered that service stations had changed from his days as a youth pumping gas and cleaning windows. Revenues shifted from sales to service to repairs and back again. His response to new customer demands and growing costs was a major revision in the family-owned business with the construction of a new convenience store, a kitchen, new gas dispensers, and a car wash.

*Nominated by Scott Sakakihara, Central Pacific Bank*

## ***City and County of Honolulu***

### **Alan Young**

**Young's Fish Market**



*Alan Young*

Started over 50 years ago, Young's Fish Market has evolved over the years to become a local institution. The market has maintained its comfortable "Mom and Pop" image as the company grew and groomed the next generation to take over. Alan Young, son of the founders, keeps the business growing and viable by exploring new opportunities like internet expansion and mail order. Young's ideas are working well and the number of employees keeping customers happy at Young's Fish Market has doubled over the last ten years.

*Nominated by Greg Sokolowski, Central Pacific Bank*

## ***County of Maui***

### **Jeremy Kozuki**

**Home Maid Bakery, Inc.**



*Jeremy Kozuki*

Home Maid Bakery, started by Joseph and Monica Kozuki in the 60's, is a landmark, steeped in Maui tradition and known statewide for "Maui Crispy Manju." The bakery has thrived where many family-owned businesses close when the next generation goes into other fields. Now under the management of the second generation, the small business continues to grow. Adapting to change and maintaining the quality and wide variety of products has been a key to success. Over the past ten years, Jeremy Kozuki has grown annual revenues by 48% and created ten new jobs.

*Nominated by Mitchell Nishimoto, First Hawaiian Bank*

## **2007 SMALL BUSINESS EXPORTER**

## ***State of Hawai'i***

### **Nobuo and Teruko Kuniyuki**

**Goodtimes Limited**



*Nobuo Kuniyuki Teruko Kuniyuki*

Goodtimes Limited was established in 1973 and was purchased by Nobuo and Teruko Kuniyuki in 1995. The Kuniyukis are well known for their customer service, assuring their international clients' comfort in placing orders and doing business with a company so far away. By participating in trade shows in Hawai'i and Japan, the small business owners are able to highlight our island culture and create interest in many other Hawai'i products and businesses. Teruko, fluent in Japanese, shares this market information with other small business exporters and helps promote Hawaiian-made products.

*Nominated by Janice Nguyen, Bank of Hawai'i*



## **2007 HOME BASED BUSINESS CHAMPIONS**

### ***State of Hawai'i***

#### **Lani Weigert, Alii Chang, & Marseu Simpson**

The Lavender Farm dba Alii Kula Lavender Farm



*Lani Weigert      Alii Chan      Marseu Simpson*

Started in 2002, The Lavender Farm owners work continually with other small and home based firms to identify opportunities and increase their annual sales by creating new products for the marketplace using lavender as an ingredient. Locals and tourists alike now enjoy inventive products such as lavender infused syrup & jams, lavender herb vinegar, dressing, and the popular Gourmet Seasoning, lavender goat milk soaps and lip butters. The Lavender Farm has become a leading attraction in the niche of agricultural tourism in Hawai'i and supports other farms.

*Nominated by Craig Bode, American Savings Bank*

### ***City and County of Honolulu***

#### **Barry M. Wong**

Building Specs Hawai'i, LLC



*Barry Wong*

Building Specs Hawai'i, LLC, is a home based business operated by Barry Wong. The company is affiliated with a nationwide company supporting home inspection businesses across the U.S. and Canada. Wong believes in providing quality service, investing in training of employees and putting 100% effort on every job, no matter the size. As a result of his work ethic, Wong has been recognized as the Top National Producer for the past five years.

*Nominated by Colin Touchi, Bank of Hawai'i*

### ***County of Maui***

#### **Susan H. Kim**

Susan Kim Consulting, LLC



*Susan Kim*

As a life coach, Susan Kim partners with professionals and other home-based entrepreneurs who want to improve their business and life. Her coaching practice consists of one-on-one coaching, teleclasses, live work shops, and on-line programs for small business owners who face specific challenges. Kim is involved in the Maui community, volunteering with Maui Economic Opportunity, Maui County Business Resource Center, Toastmasters, SCORE, Business Network International and other professional associations and programs for youth.

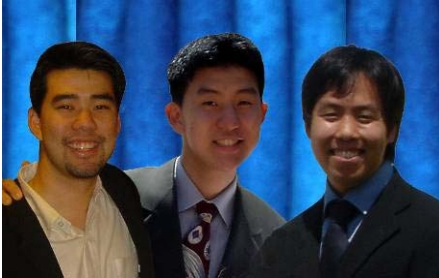
*Nominated by Patrice Matsumoto and Kevin Yoshida, Central Pacific Bank*

## **2007 SBA YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR**

### ***State of Hawai'i***

#### **Tony Yamada, David Inouye & Michael Inouye**

**Worldwide Business Network dba Ideal Collectables**



*David  
Inouye*

*Michael  
Inouye*

*Tony  
Yamada*

Started in 1999, Ideal Collectables has become a leading web based retailer of collectibles in both Hawai'i and Japan. They have carved an important niche among Japanese collectors who account for almost 50% of their sales. These three young entrepreneurs - all under 30 years of age - travel to Japan and to the U.S. to meet with retailers, participate in trade shows, and to negotiate bargains for products like the popular Pokemon items, Naruto collectibles and Yukio card games.

*Nominated by Christina Michelson, Bank of Hawai'i*

### ***City and County of Honolulu***

#### **Bryan Zada**

**BRZ, Inc. dba Pretzelmaker**



*Bryan Zada*

When Bryan Zada acquired three Pretzelmaker franchises, his goal was to make them profitable. Determined to succeed, he sought mentors and trained on the job to accomplish a stunning turn around. His recruitment and training of employees became the key to customer satisfaction. He also added more menu items, increased variety, and introduced fresh soups. Working to keep exciting products in development, Zada is now involved with the franchisor on national committees that create new products and partnerships for continued growth.

*Nominated by Darin Shigeta, Bank of Hawai'i*

### ***County of Kaua'i***

#### **Thomas Middleton**

**Pacific Lawn and Landscape**



*Thomas Middleton*

In an industry that is often stereotyped as "unreliable" or "unlicensed," Thomas Middleton is one of the good guys in the landscaping industry. Pacific Lawn and Landscape has grown from a handful of accounts to over 40 clients, nine of which are high-end commercial clients. The company has grown from 1 to 10 workers, many attracted by an employee benefit package seldom seen in the industry. At age 29, Middleton plans to expand services as the residential communities grow on the Garden Island.

*Nominated by Jeff Murata, First Hawaiian Bank*

## ***County of Hawai'i***

### **Zendo NMN Kern**

**Superior Development Group**



*Zendo Kern*

Born in Kohala and raised in Puna, Zendo Kern is a motivated, self starter with determination and a plan for success that belies his 27 years. Kern immersed himself in the East Hawai'i construction industry in 2001 and started his own business in 2004. Kern first developed ten affordable residential units that boosted the young company's annual revenues into the millions. Working with business advisors and outside investors, Kern secured an ideal location at Keeau Bypass Road to develop a commercial center that will drive much needed economic activity in the area.

*Nominated by Calvin Kang & Paul Franklin, Central Pacific Bank*

## **2007 SMALL BUSINESS JOURNALIST**

## ***State of Hawai'i & Region IX***

### **Evan & Kari Leong**

**Greater Good, Inc.**



*Evan Leong*



*Kari Leong*

Through a variety of media, Greater Good, Inc., promotes the concept that businesses find greater prosperity when community needs are considered in business decision-making, not just their bottom line. Evan and Kari Leong strive to educate, motivate and inspire business and community leaders with each and every interview or special project. In their discussions, the Leong's also bring entrepreneurial experience to the table. Bubble Tea Supply, their successful small business, was established with financing from SBA and support from the Hawai'i SBDC. They use the principles of social entrepreneurship in their work, too.

*Nominated by Robin Kaneshiro, Central Pacific Bank*

## ***City and County of Honolulu***

### **Linda Dela Cruz**

**MidWeek**



*Linda Dela Cruz*

Through her journalistic efforts, Linda Dela Cruz informs and educates her audience about small business and demonstrates the challenges that many face on a daily basis, like access to capital, forecasting, marketing, and growth. With her column, she is also able to promote the small firms and their contributions to Hawaii to the public. For *MidWeek*, she is a weekly business columnist, the Website editor and coordinates other columns. She is also a freelance writer and involved in professional organizations.

*Nominated by Winfred Cameron, Jr., American Savings Bank*

## ***County of Maui***

### **Debra Lordan** ***Maui Weekly***



*Debra Lordan*

Highlighting small businesses and their activities, challenges and issues is an important part of life on Maui. Debra Lordan, editor of the *Maui Weekly*, recognizes the connection between the vitality and quality of life in a community and the viability of small enterprises serving it and strives to communicate that effectively to readers. She regularly assigns stories and publishes features promoting various local businesses that are filling different niches, selling new products or making a unique contribution to benefit others.

*Nominated by Paul Felix, American Savings Bank*

## **2007 MINORITY SMALL BUSINESS CHAMPION**

## ***State of Hawai'i***

### **Dr. Tin Myaing Thein** ***Pacific Gateway Center***



*Dr. Tin Myaing  
Thein*

As Executive Director of the Pacific Gateway Center, Dr. Thein is well aware of the obstacles and communications barriers that immigrants often face. Her small business programs offer skills training, computer courses, one-on-one business consulting, and micro financing. The array of services at the center are provided by a bi-lingual staff to clients in their native dialect - over 33 of them - to help them better understand the American way of doing business and give them a better chance of succeeding in their new country.

*Nominated Roland Chang, Central Pacific Bank*

## **2007 FINANCIAL SERVICES CHAMPION**

## ***State of Hawai'i***

### **Brian Iwata** ***Taketa, Iwata, Hara & Associates***



*Brian Iwata*

Brian Iwata, a Hilo-based certified public accountant who is committed to providing support to small business clients, encourages his team of experienced professionals to share the most up-to-date resources for small businesses. Iwata is an advocate of increased access to capital for small businesses and sits on the Big Island Housing Foundation, the Hawai'i Federal Credit Union Supervisory Committee, and other community organizations to help address important issues for small businesses in Hawai'i.

*Nominated by Marcella Stroh, Central Pacific Bank*



## ***County of Maui***

### **Annette Pauole Ahakuelo**

**Kuha'o Business Center**



*Annette Pauole-Ahakuelo*

A Moloka'i native, Annette Pauole-Ahakuelo operates the Kuha'o Business Center, a resource for small business owners and new entrepreneurs started with support from SBA, American Savings Bank, the Rural Development Agency and now funded primarily by Maui County. Pauole-Ahakuelo relocated and revitalized the business center and now provides counseling and training for new and existing business owners to improve their businesses, help secure financing and increase revenues. Thirty new businesses have started, creating jobs and securing capital through different financing programs.

*Nominated by Charlene Aquino, American Savings Bank*

## **2007 WOMEN IN BUSINESS CHAMPION**

### ***State of Hawai'i & Region IX***

### **Barbara Hastings & Barbra Pleadwell**

**Hastings & Pleadwell, A Communications Company**



*Barbra Pleadwell      Barbara Hastings*

Hastings & Pleadwell, A Communications Company (H&P) is a successful women-owned small business that works with diverse clients from across the State, providing public relations, advertising, branding, and general marketing strategy. These award-winning services have been offered free of charge to many organizations working to support equal opportunity and advancement of women in Hawai'i, particularly women business owners and youth. H&P has just celebrated their tenth year in business with ten good deeds in the community.

*Nominated by Mel Racadio, Bank of Hawai'i*

### ***City and County of Honolulu***

### **Piia Aarma**

**Pineapple Tweed**



*Piia Aarma*

Piia Aarma strives to ensure that women have the opportunity to follow their dreams and achieve their potential as fully contributing members of our island community. Knowing the power of communications, Aarma assists many women and women's organizations with marketing and public relations issues to help expand their horizons and secure greater success in their work. Beneficiaries of her commitment to the advancement of women include La Pietra, Junior League, Hawai'i Women's Business Center, the YWCA and many others.

*Nominated by Naomi Masuno, Central Pacific Bank*

***County of Hawai'i***

**Muriel Boot**

**Kona Gift Gallery, Eelskin Outlet  
Affordable Business Services**



*Muriel Boot*

Described as a real dynamo by colleagues and friends, Muriel Boot puts her energy and knowledge to work to improve opportunities for women of all ages in her community. She shares her experience as the successful owner of multiple small businesses with other women. Boot spearheaded the local "Grant for Success" scholarship for women over 21 who need more education or skills as well as for the Young Careerist program in high schools. Recognizing gaps in services, Boot co-founded a non-profit organization, Makoa Wahine 'O Kona to assist others with fundraising to support local programs.

*Nominated by Joycelyn Binney, Bank of Hawai'i*

**2007 PHOENIX AWARD**

**FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO DISASTER RECOVERY**

***Nominee for Disaster Area 2***



*Mayor Harry Kim*

Mayor Harry Kim was selected by SBA Disaster Area 2 Field Office as the nominee for the Outstanding Contribution to Disaster Recovery by a Public Official for his actions following the Kōhōlo Bay earthquake on October 15, 2006. Within minutes, Kim opened the Civil Defense Emergency Operations Center in response to the impact of the 6.7 quake to assess the dangers and damage facing residents across the county.